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Subject: Flint Readout 05/16/16

Early Childhood Education Program Expansion

[Flint schools expanding early childhood education program with U of M-Flint](#)

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 05/16/16 3:00 PM

The Flint public school district is expanding early childhood education programs. The three-, four- and five-year-olds at the Great Expectations Early Childhood Program at Holmes STEM Academy are the lucky ones. The waiting list to get into this program is hundreds of names long. But Superintendent Bilal Tawwab says the University of Michigan-Flint is working to expand the program, which he says is critical.

[Flint Schools Offer Top-Quality UM-Flint Preschool at No Cost](#)

By UM-Flint News 05/16/16 12:23 PM

A new partnership between Flint Community Schools and the University of Michigan-Flint brings the University's exceptional early childhood education program directly to a greater number of Flint families. Great Expectations Early Childhood Program at Holmes STEM Academy offers the same evidence-based teaching methods as those used currently at UM-Flint's on-campus Early Childhood Development Center, which is nationally accredited and among the top-ranked facilities in the state.

Early childhood program expands amid Flint's water crisis

By Mike Householder AP for Washington Times 05/16/16

The University of Michigan-Flint's early childhood education program will be offered for free to more Flint families amid the city's crisis with lead-tainted water, officials said Monday. The program is ideal for lead-exposed children in part because of the emphasis on providing healthy food to students every two hours, Michigan-Flint early education teacher Starletta Rett-Henry said during a news conference at Holmes STEM Academy. Lead can cause developmental delays, learning disabilities and health problems in children.

Congressman criticizes Snyder for Flint answers

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 05/16/16 3:00 PM

A Democratic congressman on Monday continued to raise concerns about Gov. Rick Snyder's answers to questions on the Flint water crisis, saying his responses haven't been as complete as was hoped. Despite Governor Snyder's repeated promises to be transparent and accountable and cooperate with Congress, his actions are impeding our ability to thoroughly investigate this crisis," said U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Gov. Snyder says 'no memory' of deleting Flint water crisis emails

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 05/16/16 1:43 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder says it's possible that he deleted emails about the Flint water crisis prior to April 2013 but thinks it's "unlikely that I did so." Snyder's written comments on his emails are

part of his response to several questions from the Congressional Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and were released Monday, May 16, by U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, ranking member of the committee.

Congressman: Snyder 'impeding' Flint investigation

By Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 05/16/16 12:00 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder “has no memory” of deleting any early emails relevant to the Flint water crisis, but his written responses to Congressional committee questions “raise a whole new set of concerns about the accuracy” of his March testimony, Democratic U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland said Monday. Snyder, responding May 9 to questions from the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, backtracked on his sworn testimony, saying statements by his attorney he had called “not accurate” are in fact “accurate,” a reversal he attributed to a misunderstanding.

Top Dem slams new Flint answers from Michigan governor

By Devin Henry, The Hill 05/16/16 11:23 AM

The top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee says he has “a whole new set of concerns” about Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder’s (R) responses to Congress on the Flint water crisis. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) on Monday released answers from Snyder to follow-up questions stemming from Snyder’s March appearance before Congress to discuss his administration’s response to the Flint crisis. Cummings’s office said those answers contradict responses Snyder gave to the committee during that hearing and that he has continued doubts about the governor’s openness with lawmakers.

Marc Edwards Blog about Water Defense

A-List Actor But F-List Scientist: Mark Ruffalo Brings Fear And Misinformation To Flint

By Flint Water Study 05/16/16

Actor Mark Ruffalo (who once played a doctor in a movie) and his Water Defense team have been outspoken about current health dangers from bathing and showering in Flint water. Two weeks ago, Ruffalo went on CNN to highlight the unique dangers of bathing in Flint, due to corroding pipes: “where the problem really lies...is not the EPA, nor the State of Michigan, nor Dr. Mona or Marc Edwards, can tell the people of Flint it is safe to bath in Flint water because there are no standards” ...“we do not know where these disinfection by-products (DBPs) are

coming from, are they coming from the corroded lead, or are they coming from galvanized iron pipes” Ruffalo’s new claim, adds to a February press release of Water Defense “Chief Scientist” Scott Smith proclaiming “DANGEROUS CHEMICALS DISCOVERED IN BATHS/SHOWERS OF FLINT, MI.” Exactly how Mr. Smith earned a title of “Chief Scientist” from Mr. Ruffalo is something of a mystery– he does not appear to have any scientific degree, nor has he played such a role in a movie.

Va. Tech professor rips Ruffalo group’s Flint message

By Jim Lynch, Detroit News 05/16/16 2:22 PM

Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards, whose work helped identify Flint’s lead contamination issues, has issued harsh criticisms of a nonprofit group that has raised alarms over the safety of the city’s water for bathing and showering. Water Defense, an organization fronted by A-list actor Mark Ruffalo, has been working in Flint since late January and has been arguing that the state needs to reword its advisory, which allows residents to bathe and shower with water coming from their homes.

Scientist accuses Mark Ruffalo's group of fearmongering

By Tiffany Stecker, E&E Publishing 05/16/16

A crusading researcher who revealed the lead crisis in Flint, Mich., is accusing movie star Mark Ruffalo's advocacy group of frightening residents of the beleaguered city about the safety of their water supply. Virginia Tech engineering professor Marc Edwards, whose study uncovered dangerous lead levels in Flint's tap water, wrote a blog post on the study's website condemning Water Defense, an organization founded by the acclaimed actor.

Flint Water Whistleblower Slams Actor Mark Ruffalo’s Group For ‘Dangerous’ Message

By CBS Detroit 05/16/16 1:36 PM

The whistleblower who helped diagnose the lead-in-the-water problem is blasting Avengers actor/activist Mark Ruffalo and friends for allegedly exploiting the fears of Flint residents. “An A list Actor but an F List Scientist” is the headline of a scathing blog written by Virginia Tech professor Dr. Marc Edwards about a claim by Ruffalo’s Water Defense group that it is not safe to bathe in the city’s water.

Virginia Tech Prof Attacks Actor Mark Ruffalo for Fanning 'Fear' in Flint

By Deadline Detroit 05/16/16 1:08 PM

Both high-profile figures are trying to look out for the folks of Flint in this tragic water crisis. Now, one attacks the other. Jim Lynch of The Detroit News reports that Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards, who has been hailed as a hero both locally and on Capitol Hill for exposing Flint's water crisis, has sharply attacked the nonprofit group, Water Defense, which is fronted by well-known actor Mark Ruffalo.

Mark Ruffalo Is Spreading Bogus Info In Flint, Scientist Says

By Arthur Delaney, Huffington Post 05/16/16 12:22 PM

Hollywood star Mark Ruffalo's environmental advocacy group is spreading misinformation about the water in Flint, Michigan, according to a respected scientist who helped expose the city's lead crisis. Ruffalo and his nonprofit, Water Defense, have been warning Flint residents that their water might be unsafe for bathing. Virginia Tech civil engineering professor Marc Edwards says the data behind these warnings is bunk — and that the warnings themselves might be hurting public health. "I have moms calling me saying that because of this group they are not letting their children take baths or wash their hands," Edwards told The Huffington Post on Monday.

State has spent at least \$3.6 million to pay workers in Flint's water crisis

By Lindsey Smith & Michael Gerstein, Michigan Radio 05/16/16 4:00 PM

Michigan has spent millions to pay officials and government workers scrambling to provide water, filters and other resources after lead contaminated Flint's water, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press. Data from the State Budget Office show the state spent more than \$3.6 million to pay state workers through mid-April for such things as buying and shipping water, informing Flint residents and media about response efforts, sampling water, testing animals for lead exposure and tending to a warehouse of supplies in a city still reeling from lead contamination.

Michigan Spends \$3.6 Million on Flint's Water Crisis Paychecks

By Lynsey Mukomel, 9 & 10 News 05/15/16 9:03 PM

We're learning how much money is being spent on people working to fix the Flint water crisis. So far Michigan has spent more than \$3.6 million to pay workers who are distributing and sampling water or doing administrative work. The state has cut the amount of people working though.

State spends \$3.6M on Flint emergency paychecks

By Michael Gerstein, AP for Detroit News 05/15/16 1:34 PM

Michigan has spent millions to pay officials and government workers scrambling to provide water, filters and other resources after lead contaminated Flint's water, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press. Data from the State Budget Office shows the state spent more than \$3.6 million to pay state workers for such things as buying and shipping water, informing Flint residents and media about response efforts, sampling water, testing animals for lead exposure and tending to a warehouse of supplies in a city still reeling from lead contamination.

KWA Pipeline Project

State's interest in pushing KWA project needs explanation

By Nancy Kaffer, Detroit Free Press 05/16/16 3:07 PM

Without the Karegnondi Water Authority, there would be no Flint water crisis. After Flint joined the new regional water system, it began to pull its drinking water from the Flint River while Karegnondi was under construction. Because that water wasn't treated properly, Flint residents were exposed to water contaminated by lead.

Could Flint bail out on KWA water pipeline?

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 05/15/16 9:09 AM

With the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline to Lake Huron just months from reaching Flint, Mayor Karen Weaver isn't sold on continuing as a full partner in the \$247-million project. "No decision has been made yet on whether Flint should remain a partner with the KWA, but with so much of the pipeline already built, it is not a decision the mayor plans to make without weighing all the consequences involved," Kristin Moore, a spokeswoman for the mayor, said in an email to MLive-The Flint Journal.

Michael Moore On *Real Time with Bill Maher*

Michael Moore on Flint Water Crisis: 'This Was a Hate Crime'

By Daniel Kreps, Rolling Stone 05/14/16

Michael Moore appeared on *Real Time With Bill Maher* Friday to slam the Michigan government, especially Governor Rick Snyder, for their handling of the Flint water crisis. “This was a hate crime,” the Flint-born filmmaker said. “this was a hate crime based on the race hatred of this particular party.”

Michael Moore Has Very Strong Opinions On The Flint Water Crisis: ‘This Was A Hate Crime’

By Andrew Roberts , UPROXX 05/14/16

Michael Moore stopped by *Real Time* on Friday and he didn’t shy away from making fiery comments about the situation in Flint, Michigan. It is famously his hometown and is featured numerous times in his documentaries, especially *Roger And Me*. During his chat with Bill Maher, Moore hit directly at what he believes the problem is in Flint: racism. He goes so far as to call the Flint water crisis a hate crime, something which even Maher seems to disagree with a bit. President Obama gets knocked a bit too, with Moore calling it “shameful” that the president drank the Flint water and gave the all clear on the matter.

Michael Moore: Handling of Flint Water Crisis Was ‘A Hate Crime’

By Ian Hanchett, Breitbart 05/13/16 [video clip]

Filmmaker Michael Moore argued that the handling of the Flint water crisis was “a hate crime. It was a hate crime based on this race hatred of this particular party” on Friday’s broadcast of HBO’s “*Real Time*.” Moore said, “Within a few months, they realized they were poisoning people, and the word came down, don’t say anything, doctor the books, and they let people continue to drink this water, and did nothing about it. And I think that is a crime. And they did it, because it’s a black city, it’s a poor city. ... This was a hate crime. It was a hate crime based on this race hatred of this particular party.”

Other News & Opinions

Flint summit set to coax firms to hire disabled workers

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 05/16/16 4:00 PM

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and state Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein are convening a summit of employers next month in Flint to encourage them to hire workers with disabilities. The Republican lieutenant governor and Democratic high court justice have traveled the state together over the past year to speak together about issues affecting Michigan's disabled residents. Calley has an autistic daughter, and Bernstein is blind.

Women in Flint protest water crisis with 'die-in' outside treatment plant

By Jake May, MLIVE 05/16/16 1:15 PM

Ten women clad in red paint-splattered jumpsuits held a "die-in" on the steps of the Flint water treatment plant today. "It's about talking about women's reproductive systems that have been damaged by Flint's water system," said Desiree Duell, a Flint resident and activist. "Many have had miscarriages, and the girls who were born through this may have damaged eggs. We've been poisoned."

What Will it Take to Adequately Invest in Infrastructure in Michigan?

By WDET.org 05/16/16 [radio clip]

The Flint water crisis has sparked a nationwide conversation about infrastructure. Specifically, about the infrastructure we don't always see: water, sewer and gas lines. Those systems are crumbling, in need of millions of dollars of repairs and largely ignored by policymakers, according to Lance Binoniemi, vice president of government affairs at the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, who spoke with WDET's Stephen Henderson on "Detroit Today."

EPA: Are Detroit water controls adequate?

Todd Spangler & Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 05/14/16 8:01 AM

A federal drinking water expert late last year raised serious concerns about Detroit's water system, voicing worries that the city might not be doing as much as it could to prevent lead from leaching out of old service pipes. In an e-mail written to colleagues at the Environmental Protection Agency last December, Michael Schock — a drinking water expert who is part of the EPA's effort to address the lead crisis in Flint — said he found it "interesting" that lead levels in Flint didn't drop more quickly after switching back to the Detroit water system, which had years before begun using phosphates as corrosion control to protect pipes.

Lawmakers confronting the cost of Flint's water crisis and the Detroit school district's enormous debt are also being asked for an initial \$165 million deposit to upgrade aging underground infrastructure across Michigan

By AP for Daily Journal 05/14/16 4:01 AM

Lawmakers confronting the cost of Flint's water crisis and the Detroit school district's enormous debt are also being asked for an initial \$165 million deposit to upgrade aging underground infrastructure across Michigan. It's not just the lead pipes that eventually need replacing. Water mains, sewer lines, wastewater treatment plants, the electricity grid, energy pipelines, and telecommunications infrastructure will require improvements, too.

Flint residents' lawyer: Water still not safe to drink

By Tresa Baldas, Detroit Free Press 05/13/16 7:22 PM

Flint's ongoing water crisis spilled into a federal courtroom today as city residents and civil rights groups look to a judge for intervention, claiming state and city officials are taking too long to deliver clean drinking water to Flint, and they need to be pushed to move faster. U.S. District Judge David Lawson heard arguments from both sides, including the state's contention that things aren't really moving that slowly, and that a 2½-month response time to an emergency request from last fall was reasonable.

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